



Serial No.: 09/049,696
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: P. Billing-Medel, *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/049,696

Filed: March 27, 1998

For: REAGENTS AND METHODS USEFUL
FOR DETECTING DISEASES OF THE
GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT

Examiner: J. Kerr

Group Art Unit: 1633

Attorney Docket No.: 6067.US.P1

Date: October 29, 2001

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Wanda E. Smith 10/30/01
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Box RCE
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is responsive to the Office Action dated January 31, 2001 and to the Advisory Action dated August 8, 2001 in the parent application. A Notice of Appeal was filed on April 30, 2001. Claims 1-6, 8, 11, 15, 17 and 18 were currently under examination in the parent application. A response was originally filed on July 30, 2001 with a one-month extension of time.

A Request for a Continued Examination accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. A further three-month extension of time accompanies this Amendment, extending the time to respond from June 30, 2001 to October 30, 2001 in the parent application so that the parent application and this RCE are co-pending.

Addendum

1. Preliminary Amendment with Exhibits A & B; Return Receipt Postcard